

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, and reconsideration of the Office Action dated October 28, 2004. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 3, 5-8, 15, 16, 20, and 21 will remain pending in this application. The changes to the claims are supported by the specification and original claims. No new matter is incorporated by this Amendment.

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Claim 17 was objected to for depending from a rejected base claim. In response, the subject matter of previous claim 17 has been incorporated into independent claim 3, from which the remaining claims all depend. Moreover, claim 17 has been canceled. Hence, the objection is overcome and its withdrawal is requested.

Claim 15 was also objected to because of an informality. In response, claim 15 has been amended in a manner that overcomes the objection. Hence, withdrawal of the objection is requested.

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Claims 3, 5-8, 15, 16, 20, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

As discussed above, independent claim 3 (from which the remaining claims depend) has been amended in a manner that accommodates the rejection. Hence, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirements.

Claim 15 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter that is not fully enabled by the specification.

Given the amendments to claims 3 and 15, Applicants submit both rejections have been accommodated and withdrawal of each is requested.

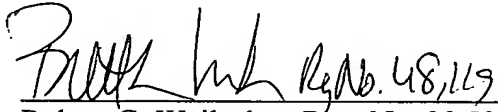
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Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment and the above remarks obviate the outstanding objections and rejections in this case, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, such as fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, please charge the fees to Deposit Account 02-4300; Order No. 032301.269.

Respectfully submitted,

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RGW/BLN